

Sanders County FSA Office
P. O. Box 639
Plains, MT 59859

County Committee Members

Maggie Goode
Bill Jensen
John Holland

FSA Office Personnel

Dan Fehrs, Program Tech
Fred Smith, Credit Manager
Dale Neiman, CED

Dates to Remember:

July 4 – Office Closed

July 16 – Acreage Reporting
Deadline

July 16 – Deadline to submit 2007
NAP production reports

July 16 – Deadline to file a 2006
NAP Application for Payment

August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline
for FY 2007

August 1 – COC Nomination forms
must be returned to county office by
close of business

August 3 – Signature deadline on
2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical
Program (DCP)

August 4 - September 28 – DCP
late filed fee of \$100 will be
assessed

September 3 – Holiday, Office
closed

September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach
Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 – Final date for late
filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping
Forward for Agriculture Symposium,
Dillon

November 2 – COC ballots will be
mailed to eligible voters



Sanders County FSA

July 2007

File Your Acreage Reports by July 16

Yearly acreage reports are required for producers to be eligible for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) and Price Support Programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported and certified to maintain this eligibility. Acreage reports will be accepted from an owner, operator or tenant as well as those with power of attorney for these individuals. The deadline for reporting acreage is July 16, 2007. Reports filed after that date are subject to late-filed fees and a visual farm inspection unless the County Committee determines that the late filing was beyond the producer's control. Farms with late filed reports are subject to mandatory spot checks unless the County Committee determines it was beyond the producer's control.

Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- You receive DCP payments
- You have acres enrolled in CRP
- Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey (*All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits*).
- Acreage is covered by NAP

Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.



COC Nominations Open

Nominations for positions on the FSA County Committee are now open. Anyone interested in either nominating themselves or their neighbors are encouraged to submit a nomination form to the office by August 1.

A county or area served by the county committee is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. You must reside within the LAA that is open for election to be eligible to run for a position on the county committee. This year the Niarada, Lonepine, Hot Springs, Camas Prairie and Dixon LAA (3) is open for election.

The nominee must be sure to sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member. All eligible voters will receive a ballot in the mail no later than November 2. At that time, all eligible voters will vote for their favorite candidate, sign the ballot and return the completed ballot to the county office by December 3.

Nomination forms are available at the office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Reminder: Providing Copies to Insurance Companies

Private insurance representatives are now required to provide the FSA county office a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agent.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the Acreage Report (FSA-578) and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies. If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

AFIDA was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor ownership and purchases of U.S. agricultural land by foreign persons.

Farm Reconstitutions Deadline is August 1

In FSA terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). The farm producers may enroll the base acres for a crop year by signing a new DCP (CCC-509) for the resulting farm (s). This must be done by **August 3** or 30 days after written notification that the farm reconstitution has been completed.

If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

Disaster Assistance

On May 25, 2007, the President signed the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007 which provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for ag producers affected by natural disaster in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Losses must have occurred prior to February 28, 2007 so the programs will not cover 2007 crop losses in Montana. The initial rules of the program indicate that only producers that obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program for the year of loss will be eligible for payments. There will be no livestock programs for Sanders County under this Act. This office will issue further details as we receive them.

2007 Final Year of DCP Program Under 2002 Farm Bill

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 28, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 28, 2007. Applications filed after September 28, 2007 cannot be approved.

We encourage you to sign up early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Call this office if you are unsure as to the status of your 2007 DCP contract.

Sanders Co. FSA Office

P. O. Box 639
Plains, MT 59859

Presort Standard
U. S. Postage
Paid
Bozeman, MT 59717
Permit #54